

DRAFT

REMARKS BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BISA WILLIAMS
CHECK HANDOVER CEREMONY TO WEST AFRICAN
AMBASSADOR'S FUND GRANTEES
U.S. EMBASSY MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM
WEDNESDAY JUNE 24, 2015 AT 9:00 A.M.

- /Salutations/

Good morning. Thank you, Ambassador Whitehead, for inviting me to be a part of this very special ceremony. I am honored to represent the people of the United States of America to recognize the following five organizations whose projects were chosen to receive grants from the West African Ambassador's Fund, known as WAAF. They are:

- Petite Sœur à Sœur
- Action Contre le SIDA
- Centre de Recherches et d'Informations Pour la Santé au Togo
- Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) Togo
- Development for All

The Embassy reviewed eighteen proposals and yours were deemed to be the best. Congratulations!

Ladies and gentlemen, the American people care about the people of Togo. Over the last twenty years, the United States has provided funding for close to four hundred development projects in your country. Last year alone, the

U.S. Government provided over fourteen million dollars in development aid to Togo.

The West African Ambassador's Fund received funding for these grants thanks to the United States Agency for International Development's *Agir Projet Familial* program, which is managed through USAID'S West African Regional Health Office in Accra. AgirPF is a five-year initiative implemented in collaboration with the U.S.-based non-governmental organization EngenderHealth and Ministries of Health and other partners in five West African countries. These grants, ranging from \$15,000 to \$30,000 each, serve to strengthen public, private, and NGO abilities to provide a wide range of family planning services, including integrated family planning for persons living with HIV/AIDS and maternal, neonatal, and child health services.

Indeed, expanded access to quality health care promotes opportunity and development for the people of Togo and all peoples in Africa. And as President Obama has said, "America believes in Africa as a region of growing opportunity and promise, for Africa, for America, and for our people and our economies. We will work with our African partners to build strong institutions, and create opportunities for Africa's people to prosper." Clearly, you have taken that message to heart.

In closing, I wish to extend a special thank you to USAID's partner in this project, EngenderHealth, as well as to the Togolese Ministry of Health for your support and the outstanding work you do.

Thank you.